

CHAPTER NO. 153

HOUSE BILL NO. 948

By Representatives Tidwell, Shepard, Maddox

Substituted for: Senate Bill No. 842

By Senator Jackson

AN ACT to name a segment of State Route 7 in Hickman County in honor of the late Kent Montgomery, Tennessee State Trooper.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly have seen fit to name certain highways to honor the memory of those exemplary public servants who dedicated their lives to protecting their fellow citizens and preserving the public safety; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean is more deserving of this honor than the late Robert Kent Montgomery, a dedicated Tennessee State Trooper, outstanding citizen and devoted family man; and

WHEREAS, Robert Kent Montgomery was born June 30, 1964, in Paris, Tennessee, and was raised in the small Weakley County town of Palmersville; and

WHEREAS, after high school, Kent attended Murray State University in Kentucky, earning an Associate's Degree in Manufacturing Engineering and graduating with a Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1987; and

WHEREAS, although having a specialized college degree in hand, Kent's first love was service to others, and he immediately enlisted in the Tennessee Highway Patrol's Recruit School, becoming a Tennessee State Trooper in 1988; and

WHEREAS, Trooper Montgomery's first assignment was to Hickman County, where he quickly became an integral and vital part of the community; and

WHEREAS, as a Trooper, Kent continued his education, receiving training and certification in Basic and Advanced Accident Investigation, Accident Reconstruction, D.U.I. Testing, D.U.I. Instructor and Traffic Radar Instructor; he was also a Licensed Emergency Medical Technician; and

WHEREAS, in addition to rising to the rank of Sergeant with the Highway Patrol, Kent served as the Assistant Captain of the Hickman County Rescue Squad, and was always one of the first to arrive on the scene of an accident or fire to offer whatever assistance might be required; and

WHEREAS, Kent was an active member of the Rocky Valley Church of Christ, and a founding member of the Hickman County Fraternal Order of Police, and he served as an EMT with intravenous therapy training when needed; and

WHEREAS, Kent was fatally injured, along with his brother-in-law and father-in-law, in a plane crash on August 11, 2002, leaving behind his wife, Misty, and their young son, Benjamin, and creating a tremendous void in his community; and

WHEREAS, State Route 7 in Hickman County was heavily patrolled by Trooper Montgomery; and

WHEREAS, the Hickman County Legislative Body, on behalf of the county's citizenry, has petitioned this General Assembly to name a segment of State Route 7 in Hickman County to honor the memory of Kent Montgomery, a beloved public servant, friend, family man and colleague; and

WHEREAS, this Body most heartily concurs with this excellent proposal; now, therefore:

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, that segment of State Route 7 from its intersection with State Route 46 and State Route 100 southward to the Hickman County-Maury County boundary is hereby designated the "Trooper Kent Montgomery Memorial Highway" as a lasting tribute to this exemplary State Trooper and his life of purpose and commitment to the public welfare.

SECTION 2. The department of transportation is directed to erect suitable signs or to affix suitable markers designating such segment of State Route 7 in Hickman County as the "Trooper Kent Montgomery Memorial Highway".

SECTION 3. The erection of such directional signs shall be within the guidelines prescribed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

SECTION 4. This act shall become operative only if the federal highway administrator advises the commissioner of transportation in writing that the provisions of this act shall not render Tennessee in violation of federal laws and regulations and subject to penalties prescribed therein.

SECTION 5. This act shall become operative only if the cost of the manufacture and installation of such signs is paid to the department of transportation from non-state funds within one (1) year of the effective date of this act. Such payment shall be made prior to any expenditure by the state for the manufacture or installation of such signs. The department shall return any unused portion of the estimated cost to the person or entity paying for such signs within thirty (30) days of the erection of such signs. If the actual cost exceeds the estimated cost, an amount equal to the difference in such costs shall be remitted to the department in non-state funds within thirty (30) days of the sponsoring person or entity receiving an itemized invoice of the actual cost from the department.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.

PASSED: April 30, 2003



JIMMY NAIFEH, SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES



JOHN S. WILDER
SPEAKER OF THE SENATE

APPROVED this 19th day of May 2003



PHIL BREDESEN, GOVERNOR